Recommendations from PCAP Review – Nov. 25-26, 2003

Facilities

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the staffing level for the tier 1 center be increased in 2004 by an additional 2 FTE to a level of 8.5 FTE.

Grid and Data Challenges

Recommendation 2: Make an accounting of facilities support people and grid production people to avoid duplication.

Recommendation 3: US ATLAS should start working with Int'l ATLAS to define what grid components will be required to do the next steps in DC2 beyond simulated data production.

Software and Data Management

Recommendation 4: Create a close-knit data management team comprising ~4-5 people to bring the system into operation. The team should work closely with the POOL team based at CERN. Bring the dispersed and fragmented effort together in one place at least for the crucial period over the next few months. A strong presence at CERN of the data management team between now and DC2 start should be considered.

Recommendation 5: We agree with the suggestion of splitting DC2 into two phases,with the first phase being generation of simulated events, starting as planned in spring 2004. The reconstruction and analysis of the events should be treated as a second phase, allowing for additional software development time to implement aspects of the data model to be validated. We do not see any good possibility to redirect experienced effort from other activities, without severely compromising other critical activities.

Recommendation 6: Database developments among the ATLAS offline, online and Trigger/DAQ groups would benefit from a coherent approach to minimize duplication of effort. We urge US ATLAS to discuss with ATLAS computing management how best to organize these efforts under a single coordinator.

Project organization and management:

Recommendation 7: Add 2 FTEs to the Tier 1 facility – above the current FY04 plan. Should also aim to add one additional FTE to data management late in FY04, after the current new hires have come up to speed.